

Warren, Whitney

[Warren + Wetmore, Architects], 1921

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Whitney Warren  
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February 9th, 1921

Mr. Sidney Noa,  
Secretary of the American Numismatic Society  
Broadway and 156th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Noa:

Forgive me taking the liberty of addressing you, but an artist with whom I believe you are acquainted, Mme. Mouroux, an engraver of medals, has been very strongly recommended to me by French Government.

During the war I had the opportunity of seeing some of her work and was deeply impressed with it. She is certainly AI and since she is in this country I feel that it is to the benefit of all if she could leave some work here, and I write to you - so competent in these affairs of medals - in the hopes that you may suggest some way in which she may be encouraged and kept occupied.

She has spoken to me of having made a placquet of M. Casenave, and wondered if the Numismatic Society would undertake the reproduction of it in view of the great sympathy and many friendships M. Casenave has in this country, and to open a subscription for the same.

I imagine that this is rather out of your line, but venture to suggest it with all apologies.

I would appreciate it tremendously, however, if you could suggest some way in which this artist's talent can be exploited.

Believe me, yours obediently,

*Whitney Warren*  
*ccy*

February 19th, 1921

Whitney Warren, Esq.  
16 East 47th Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Warren:

Please pardon the delay in responding to your letter of the 9th. Since receiving it I have had a long conference with Madame Mouroux, and we have gone into the matter of the publication of her plaquette of M. Casenave, in accordance with your suggestion.

I am sorry that it does not seem possible for the American Numismatic Society to be of aid to Madame Mouroux in this case. She, in addition to being an artist of unusual ability, is a woman of remarkable quickness of perception and she quite agreed that under the conditions it was inadvisable to try to proceed further with the matter.

Of the medals issued by our Society, the subscription has never run into very large numbers; and when, in addition to this circumstance, the number which we customarily sell would probably be reduced through lack of knowledge of M. Casenave's achievements or personality.

I further explained that many of our issues had been undertaken through co-operation with other organizations. Even were Madame Mouroux to find such a friendly organization, however, the combined sales would hardly total a number sufficient to warrant the publication of the medal after expenses were paid. This is partly due to present high costs of production in both labour and metal; and, also, to be charged to the fact that the number of people who appreciate what constitutes a good medal, is still small.

An additional discouraging feature was the possibility that our Council might hesitate to undertake the publication of a medal by an artist who is not an American, in view of the fact that a great many of our sculptors are members of our Society and that they might feel that our procedure was a questionable one.

Please pardon the lenthiness of this explanation. I wish that my response to Madame Mouroux might have been otherwise.

Very respectfully yours,